from all directions and specially from the southern most tip, if so, whether Government propose to set up Army, Air and Naval bases in the Southern region of Tamil Nadu deploying and stationing thereby heavy forces of the three commands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Government have no inputs to suggest any threat to the security of the country.

Government keep a constant watch on all developments that have a bearing on national security and take timely appropriate steps to ensure effective defence preparedness.

Stoppage of Payment of dues to Small Entrepreneurs by C.S.D.

4071. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Canteen Stores Depot has stopped payment of dues to small scale entrepreneurs as a matter of routine;

(b) if so, what protection Government propose to give to such entrepreneurs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present management of C.S.D. is taking steps to harm those units which have less than Rs. 10 lakh as turnover; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to appoint an Enquiry Committee for removing all aberrations which have crept into the functioning of C.S.D. recently and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) As per the standard contractual agreement of the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) with its suppliers, all unsold and slow-moving stocks, for which there is little or no demand, are required to be taken back by the suppliers and an amount equivalent to the cost (plus 10 per cent as transportation/handling charges) of such stores, deposited with the C.S.D. Payments for such unsold/slow moving stores from all such firms, which may include small scale units have been withheld, for being adjusted against the amounts due to be deposited with the C.S.D. As there is no attempt to take any step to harm the small scale industrial sector, the question of appointing an Enquiry Committee does not arise.

Supply of Boots and Shoes to Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur

4072. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence forces authorities have been reluctant to place their orders for supply of boots and shoes to Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur and other Central Government Undertakings in pursuance of the recent policy of liberalisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the authorities are counting upon such supplies from private sector industries;

(c) whether the standard of quality is not taken into consideration, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the details of supplies/orders made from Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur and other Central Government Undertakings together with private sectors during the past three years alongwith the number of pairs value-wise; and

(e) what protective measures are likely to be taken to utilise the maximum available capacities of both Ordnance Equipment Factory and Central Government Undertakings